

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action dated July 1, 2005, claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Steinberg (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0141639), and claims 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg. Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 12, and 14-21 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 6-9, 11, 12, and 14-21 are allowable. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith verified translations of the priority documents to the present application in order to disqualify Steinberg as prior art.

The Rejections of Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 13, and 22-25

Applicants respectfully submit that Steinberg should not be considered as prior art in the present application under any subsections of 35 U.S.C. § 102. On July 30, 2001, Applicants filed a Claim for Priority and Certified copies of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-180032, which was filed on June 15, 2000 in Japan; Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-013448, which was filed in Japan on January 22, 2001; and Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-013615, which was filed in Japan on January 22, 2001. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a), Applicants submit concurrently herewith verified translations of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-180032, Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-013448, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-013615. The U.S. filing date of Steinberg is April 3, 2001, which is after

the priority date to which this application is entitled. The publication date of any foreign counterpart applications of Steinberg presumably also would be after the priority date to which this application is entitled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Steinberg should not be considered as prior art in the present application under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102. As Steinberg is the only reference cited against the claims in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-5, 10, 13, and 22-25 are allowable.

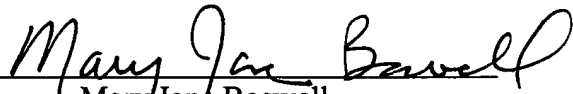
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 3, 2005

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